

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OCT 13 2010

Mr. Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
2000 P Street, N.W., Suite 240
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ruch:

Thank you for your July 15, 2010, letter on behalf of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Government Accountability Project, and the National Whistleblowers Center regarding OSHA's administration of the Whistleblower Protection Program. As a leader of a national whistleblower advocacy organization, I especially value your input.

OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels and I share your concern about the state of OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program. Whistleblower protection is an essential cornerstone of the Department of Labor's worker protection enforcement efforts and is an important part of the Department's strategic plan to strengthen workers' voice in the workplace. A "top to bottom" review of OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program is currently in progress. Any modifications that are identified to invigorate and modernize the Whistleblower Protection Program will certainly be considered to ensure that whistleblowers are adequately protected. We are working hard to bolster the program and address the program's weaknesses as quickly as possible.

Please be assured that I take the enforcement of whistleblower protections seriously and will continue to do all I can to ensure workers are provided full protection under the whistleblower protection laws enforced by the Department.

Again, I appreciate hearing from you on this critical matter and will consider your recommendations as we undertake our "top to bottom" review. In addition, someone will be contacting you, Mr. Kohn, and Mr. Cohen shortly to arrange a meeting with Deputy Secretary Seth Harris.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Secretary of Labor